Prayer

19. Prayer in Secret

Matthew 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Meaning: The phrase, "thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly" is mentioned three times in Matthew 6, concerning giving, praying, and fasting. Public prayer if not sincere, can be for one's own recognition, but not so with private prayer. When we pray in secret it is just us and God. Robert Murray McCheyne who was known for his praying said, "I can do no good to those who come to seek from me if I have forgotten my time alone with God in the early morning. I feel it is far better to begin with God, to see His face first, to get my soul near Him before it is near another."

Application: Praying in secret is life-changing. We see this in the night that supplanting Jacob wrestled with God in secret until morning. After such a time, he was turned into a prevailing prince who had power with God (Genesis 32:24-32). How can we expect to grow into God's likeness if we fail to spend any time alone with Him. The secret to prevailing prayer is prayer in secret!

Other Verses for Study: Genesis 5:21-24; I Kings 19:4-18; II Kings 4:33; Matthew 14:23; Luke 3:2; Acts 9:40; 10:9

1. What three things will God see secretly and reward openly?

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2. What was Jacob turned into because of secret prayer?

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3. Where and when do you pray in secret?

"When we go ill in the prayer closet, we commonly do so everywhere else."